



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

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# Illinois has been allocated and is applying for \$18.8 million in federal fiscal year 2003 funding from the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The equipment portion of this grant will be used to further the domestic preparedness strategy developed by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. The priority project designated for funding by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders statewide. This PPE includes a mask, respirator and chemical, biological and nuclear filters. The plan is to equip all 80,000 responders in the state, including every police officer and firefighter as well as all other potential responders to a WMD attack. How many responders the State of Illinois will be able to equip this calendar year depends on how much money Congress appropriates to Illinois for first-responder equipment purchase between the appropriation mentioned above and the supplemental appropriation that President Bush asked Congress for last week.

# On March 27, 2003, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that it was temporarily putting on hold implementation of pre-event smallpox vaccination clinics throughout the state until more definitive guidance regarding possible cardiac complications associated with smallpox vaccinations is received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Seven cases of cardiac adverse events have been reported among vaccinated civilians

and 10 cases of myopericarditis have been reported among military vaccinees. There have been no cases in Illinois to date. As a precautionary measure, CDC is recommending that persons with physician-diagnosed cardiac disease with or without symptoms (e.g. previous myocardial infarction, angina, congestive heart failure, or cardiomyopathy) be excluded from vaccination. Clinics are tentatively scheduled to resume the week of April 7.

# Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced that \$1.4 billion will be provided to states to help prepare against terrorism or other public health emergencies. Secretary Thompson also announced special provisions which would allow states to immediately obtain up to 20 percent of 2003 funding in order to support current activities, including smallpox vaccination for selected health workers and emergency responders. A portion of the funding (\$870 million) supports enhancement of state public health agencies, and the remainder (\$498 million) to support hospital preparedness for possible bioterror or other mass casualty events. The funding is part of a total of nearly \$3.5 billion in HHS funding for bioterrorism preparedness, including research into potential bioterror disease agents and potential treatments and vaccines. Illinois is scheduled to receive \$40.8 million in 2003 (the city of Chicago will receive \$15.6 million as a separate grantee).

# The IDPH and IMERT are providing training on the recognition and treatment of weapons of mass destruction. The 2003 *Domestic Preparedness: Improving Hospital and Provider Response to Bioterrorism/Mass Casualty Event* is a half-day course offered by the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians in

cooperation with the IDPH and IMERT. The course now includes information on hospital incident command issues, stress management and pediatric considerations. Class modules are scenario-based to provide attendees with practical information to assist with identification and management of incidents resulting from acts of terrorism. Plans are to hold future sessions on:

*April 09, 2003 at Gateway Center in Collinsville.*

*June 19, 2003 at Jardine Center in Moline.*

*July 18, 2003 at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.*

# The Illinois Department of Public Health participated in a Central Intelligence Agency Chemical and Biological Warfare Agent Production training course with members of the SWMDT and Illinois National Guard Civil Support Team. The training was held to examine, construct, and analyze various laboratory setups involving the production of chemical and biological agents of mass destruction.

# Illinois Department of Public Health Regional Distribution Managers of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) attended training sessions to review Illinois' SNS plan and articulate the role and responsibilities of regional staff.

# IDPH participated in a SNS meeting with representatives from the city of Chicago, Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane and Will Counties, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to discuss state and local plans to request, receive, breakdown, repackage (if necessary), and distribute antibiotic prophylaxis and other medical material from the SNS and Illinois Pharmaceutical Stockpile.

# The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) finalized installation of a redundant wireless network as it completes the setup of the Illinois Operations Headquarters and Notification Office (IOHNO). The IOHNO will serve as the IDPH strategic command center during a public health crisis with the ability to be in constant communication with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Governor's Office. The IOHNO will bring together technical experts from all public health program areas during a public health emergency. One main function will be to control and track the distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile and Illinois pharmaceutical stockpile during an emergency.

# The Illinois Department of Public Health laboratories are providing training to supervisory staff on new regulations concerning "select agent" security. The select agents include anthrax, plague, toxins, etc. For viable agents the laboratories have on hand, registration of the agents with CDC and precautions on access to laboratories must be implemented. The Chicago, Springfield, and Carbondale laboratories are arranging for improved security of laboratories, buildings, and registration of employees with access to the select agents.

# IDPH met with the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health regarding an online bioterrorism emergency preparedness assessment and certification process. All Illinois and local health department employees conducting emergency preparedness activities will be required to complete this certification process.

# The Illinois Department of Public Health sponsored a domestic preparedness course at St. John's Hospital, Springfield. The course gave an

overview of weapons of mass destruction preparedness and response with emphasis on the health care provider and was sponsored by the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) and Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT).

# The Illinois Department of Public Health conducted a Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) meeting to develop training curriculum for state police officers and Illinois paramedics. The course will teach paramedic skills to state police officers and Illinois weapons of mass destruction team members and train paramedics to safely handle weapons.

# IDPH, in conjunction with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, completed a series of statewide hazardous materials train-the-trainer programs to broaden the availability of hazardous materials awareness training within emergency medical services and healthcare organizations.

# The Office of the State Fire Marshal received mobile radios from the terrorism grant for placement in field and administrative units. The acquisition insures statewide radio access.